

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL JACE,

Plaintiff,

v.

MARGARET LIRONES, *et al.*,

Defendant(s).

Case No.: 1:22-cv-00419-KES-CDB (PC)

**ORDER SETTING SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE AND SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE PROCEDURES**

**Pre-settlement call:** 2/3/2026 at 1:30 p.m.

**Settlement Conference:** 2/10/2026  
at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom Videoconference

Plaintiff Michael Jace is proceeding *pro se* and *in forma pauperis* in this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. A settlement conference was previously ordered and is set to occur on February 10, 2026.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that:

1. The Court sets a **telephonic** pre-settlement conference for **February 3, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.** Defense counsel shall email Magistrate Erica Grosjean's courtroom deputy at [fnavarro@caed.uscourts.gov](mailto:fnavarro@caed.uscourts.gov) for the phone number and access code. Defense counsel shall arrange for Plaintiff's participation. The Court will also issue a writ of *habeas corpus ad testificandum* to allow for Plaintiff's participation, as appropriate.
2. A settlement conference is scheduled to occur on **February 10, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.**, before the undersigned, via Zoom videoconference. Defense counsel shall arrange for Plaintiff's participation. Prior to the conference, defense counsel shall email

Magistrate Erica Grosjean's courtroom deputy at [fnavarro@caed.uscourts.gov](mailto:fnavarro@caed.uscourts.gov) for the Zoom videoconference connection information. The Court will also issue a writ of *habeas corpus ad testificandum* to allow for Plaintiff's participation, as appropriate.

3. Each party or a representative with full authority to negotiate and enter into a binding settlement agreement shall participate in the conference. The failure of any counsel, party, or authorized person subject to this order to participate in the conference may result in the imposition of sanctions.
4. Consideration of settlement is a serious matter that requires thorough preparation prior to the settlement conference. Participants in the conference must be prepared to discuss the claims, defenses, and damages.
5. The parties shall engage in informal settlement negotiations as follows:  
No later than **January 20, 2026**, Plaintiff shall submit to Defendants, by mail, a written itemization of damages and a meaningful settlement demand, including a brief explanation of why such settlement is appropriate, which shall not exceed 5 pages.  
No later than **January 27, 2026**, Defendants shall respond, by mail or telephone, with an acceptance of Plaintiff's offer or a meaningful counteroffer, including a brief explanation of why such settlement is appropriate. If settlement is achieved, the parties shall file a Notice of Settlement as required by Local Rule 160.
6. If settlement is not achieved informally, the parties shall submit confidential settlement conference statements no later than **January 29, 2026**. Defendants shall email their statement to [epgorders@caed.uscourts.gov](mailto:epgorders@caed.uscourts.gov). Plaintiff shall mail his statement, clearly captioned "Confidential Settlement Conference Statement," to United States District Court, Attn: Magistrate Judge Erica Grosjean, 2500 Tulare Street, Room 1501, Fresno, CA 93721. Once the parties have submitted their statements, they shall file a "Notice of Submission of Confidential Settlement Conference Statement" with the court. The confidential settlement conference statements themselves **should not be filed** with the court **nor served** on the opposing party.
7. The confidential settlement conference statements should be no longer than 5 pages in

length and include:

- a. A brief summary of the facts of the case;
- b. A brief summary of the claims and defenses of the case, *i.e.*, the statutory, constitutional, or other grounds upon which the claims are founded;
- c. A forthright discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the case and an evaluation of the likelihood of prevailing on the claims or defenses, from the party's perspective, and a description of the major issues in dispute;
- d. An estimate of the party's expected costs and time to be expended for further discovery, pretrial matters, and trial;
- e. A summary of past settlement discussions, including the informal settlement negotiations required above; a statement of the party's current position on settlement, including the amount the party would offer and accept to settle (in specific dollar amounts); and a statement of the party's expectations for settlement discussions;
- f. An estimate of any restitution allocated to Plaintiff, or other financial obligation assigned to Plaintiff, that would affect the parties' settlement discussions;
- g. A list of the individuals who will be attending the conference on the party's behalf, including names and, if appropriate, titles; and,
- h. If a party intends to discuss the settlement of any other actions or claims not raised in this suit, a brief description of each action or claim, including case number(s), as applicable.

8. The Clerk of Court is directed to serve a copy of this order on the Litigation Office at California Institution for Men Prison.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**DATED: January 6, 2026**

/s/ Eric P. Gray  
**UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**